Vehicles operating in Delhi

816. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of vehicles operating in Delhi as on 31st October, 2003;

(b) whether the road space available to accommodate the vehicles in Delhi is inadequate and is unlikely to go up in the near future; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to restrict the number of vehicles and increase the road space during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl I.D. SWAMl): (a) The total number of vehicles registered in Delhi as on 31st October, 2003 was 40,45,492. In addition, a large number of vehicles registered in other States also ply on the roads of Delhi. The number of such vehicles varies from time to time.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The steps envisaged by the Government to reduce congestion on roads in Delhi include implementation of the Metro Rail project; introduction of High Capacity Bus System and Electric Trolley System in the selected corridors; widening of roads, and such measures as parking controls, road and bridge tolls, staggering of office hours and weekly market holidays, etc.

Stampede during Kumbh at Nasik

817. SHRl RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people died and got injured during Kumbh Mahotsav at Nasik during August-September this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were the causes for security lapses for pilgrims;

(d) the steps taken by Central Government to prevent such incidents and the responsibility fixed on administration of concerned State; and

(e) the details of compensation paid for deaths and injuries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl I.D. SWAMl): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 29 persons were killed and 118

persons were injured during Kumbh Mahotsav at Nasik during August-September this year.

(c) and (d) A preliminary Enquiry into incident has so far revealed that some Sadhu Mahantas who took procession with elephants and vehicles without obtaining prior permission as well as Sadhus who were throwing Prasad, flowers and coins during procession were mainly responsible for the incident. The State Government has also ordered a Magisterial Enquiry in this regard.

(e) A compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs per person in the case of death and Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 50,000 per person to the injured persons depending on the scale of injury has been announced by the State Government. An amount of Rs. 52 lakhs has so far been disbursed to the legal heirs of the deceased and Rs. 8.60 lakhs to the injured persons by the State Government.

Application format for marriage certificates in Delhi

818. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that each district of Delhi is asking for various set of information for getting marriage certificates from the Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that time taken for issuing the certificate is also very long; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rectify the discrepancies in the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The information relating to registration of marriages is available on the website of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi www.delhigovt.nic.in which is uniformly applicable in all the Districts. The time taken in the issuance of the certificates is also not too long.

Check on hostile attitude of witnesses before the Magistrate

819. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :